IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Previously presented) A method for monitoring and controlling a device using only one input/output (I/O) communication pin of said device, said method comprising:

    configuring said I/O pin to be used to transmit and receive pulses, said pulses comprising first pulses that represent logical ones and second pulses that represent logical zeros, said first pulses having a first width and said second pulses having a second width;

    communicating with said device by transmitting and receiving said first and second pulses via said I/O pin;

    configuring said I/O pin by connecting said I/O pin to a first node of a pull-up resistor and connecting a second node of said pull-up resistor to a power source; and

    said I/O pin being configured as an open collector output that will serve as both an input pin and an output pin.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

    generating said first and second pulses using an external device that is coupled to said device using said I/O pin.

4.   (Original): The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

    connecting a first node of a second resistor included within said external device to a power source;

    connecting a second node of said second resistor to a first node of an LED;

    connecting a second node of said LED to a first communication pin of said external device;

    connecting said second node of said LED to a first node of a switch; and

    connecting a second node of said switch to ground.

5.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

connecting said first communication pin of said external device to said I/O pin of said device; and

generating said first and second pulses by opening and closing said switch.

6.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

generating a bit stream by repeatedly opening and closing said switch to generate said first and second pulses;

generating said first pulses by closing said switch for a first length of time; and

generating said second pulses by closing said switch for a second length of time.

7.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

connecting said first communication pin of said external device to said I/O pin of said device; and

receiving, by said first communication pin of said external device, said first and second pulses transmitted by device utilizing said I/O communication pin; and

outputting said first and second pulses using said LED.

8.   (Original) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

connecting a first node of a bi-directional driver that is included in said external device to a first

communication pin of said external device; and

connecting said first communication pin to said I/O pin of said device.

9.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

generating said first and second pulses by said external device and outputting said first and second pulses using said first communication pin.

10.-20.   (Canceled)